UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/043,675	01/11/2002	Perlie E. Voshell	696690.0038	8211

			EXAMINER
21832	7590	07/13/2005	BURGE, LONDRA C

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2178	

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/043,675	VOSHELL, PERLIE E.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Londra C. Burge	2178	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
 Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *18 April 2005*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-24* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-24* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This action is responsive to communications: Amendment filed 4/18/2005.

2.   Claims 1-24 are pending. Claims 1 and 6 are independent claims.

3.   This action has been made Final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4.   **The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:**

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5.   **Claims 1, 5-9, 11, 12, 16 and 21-24 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Norden-Paul et al. (herein after Norden-Paul) U.S. Patent No. 5,247,611 filed 4/22/1991 (provided by the applicant).**

In regard to independent claim 1, Norden-Paul discloses *a) providing an electronic spreadsheet having a plurality of cells that are arrayed in a defined number of columns and rows* (Norden-Paul Abstract); *b) providing a database in communication with said electronic spreadsheet* (Norden-Paul Col 5 Lines 15-17); *c) receiving an expansion formula in at least one of said plurality of cells that identifies at least one dimension member, said expansion formula functioning to control retrieval of data associated with the at least one dimension member by querying said database and to automatically adjust at least one of the defined number of said columns and rows to accommodate said data responsive to said querying of said database*

(Norden-Paul Col 6 Lines 65-68 and Col 8 Lines 1-5 i.e. a cell whose physical dimensions may be adjusted to meet the requirement of the fields to be displayed).

In regard to dependent claim 5, Norden-Paul discloses *wherein said data includes at least one dimension member, and wherein said at least one dimension member is identified by at least one parameter set forth in said expansion formula* (Norden-Paul Abstract).

In regard to dependent claim 6, Norden-Paul discloses *wherein said at least one dimension member is a data category* (Norden-Paul Col 2 Lines 18-20 and Lines 42-43).

In regard to dependent claim 7, Norden-Paul discloses *wherein said data category is selected from the group consisting of time periods, departments, account types, account categories, product types, product categories and combinations thereof.* (Norden-Paul Figure 2)

In regard to dependent claim 8, Norden-Paul discloses *automatically updating said electronic spreadsheet to include a new dimension member upon introduction of said new dimension member to said database, provided the definition of said expansion formula calls for retrieval of said new dimension member from said database* (Norden-Paul Col 9 Lines 30-33 and Col 10 Lines 1-3).

In regard to dependent claim 9, Norden-Paul discloses *wherein in automatically varying at least one of the defined number of said columns and rows, said expansion formula does not impair operability or functionality of said electronic spreadsheet external to said data retrieval accommodation.* (Norden-Paul Col 8 Lines 54-68, Col 9 Lines 1-33 and Col 10 Lines 1-32.)

In regard to dependent claim 11, Norden-Paul discloses *wherein said expansion formula utilizes at least one function selected from the group consisting of an EVEXP function,*

EVNXP function, an EVENE function, an EVLST function, an EVSET function, an EVPXR

function, and combinations thereof. (Norden-Paul Col 9 Lines 30-33 and Col 10 Lines 1-3 i.e.

adjusting cells).

In regard to dependent claim 12, Norden-Paul discloses *wherein said expansion*

formula utilizes at least two nested functions. (Norden-Paul Col 4 Lines 8-32)

In regard to independent claim 16, Norden-Paul discloses *A system for supporting*

dynamic spreadsheet reporting, comprising a client that includes a processor and associated

data storage containing at least one databases said processor adapted to process programmatic

instructions associated with an electronic spreadsheet having a plurality of cells that are

arrayed in a defined number of columns and rows; said programmatic instructions including at

least one expansion formula inserted into in at least one of said plurality of cells that identifies at

least one dimension member, said expansion formula functioning to control retrieval of data

associated with the at least one dimension member by querying said at least one database and to

automatically adjust at least one of the defined number of said columns and rows to

accommodate said data responsive to said querying of said database. (Norden-Paul Abstract)

(Norden-Paul Col 5 Lines 15-17) (Norden-Paul Col 6 Lines 65-68)

In regard to dependent claim 21, Norden-Paul discloses *wherein said programmatic*

instructions affect automatic updating of said electronic spreadsheet to include a new dimension

member upon introduction of said new dimension member to said database, provided the

definition of said expansion formula calls for retrieval of said new dimension member from said

database. (Norden-Paul Col 9 Lines 30-33 and Col 10 Lines 1-3 and Col 8 Lines 1-5 i.e. a cell

whose physical dimensions may be adjusted to meet the requirement of the fields to be displayed)

In regard to dependent claim 22, Norden-Paul discloses *wherein in automatically varying at least one of the defined number of said columns and rows, processing of said expansion formula by said processor does not impair operability or functionality of said electronic spreadsheet external to said data retrieval accommodation.* (Norden-Paul Col 8 Lines 54-68, Col 9 Lines 1-33 and Col 10 Lines 1-32.)

In regard to dependent claim 23, Norden-Paul discloses *wherein in processing said expansion formula, said processor processes at least one function selected from the group consisting of an EVEXP function, EVNXP function, an EVENE function, an EVLST function, an EVSET function, an EVPXR function, and combinations thereof.* (Norden-Paul Col 9 Lines 30-33 and Col 10 Lines 1-3 i.e. adjusting cells).

In regard to dependent claim 24, Norden-Paul discloses *wherein in processing said expansion formula, said processor processes at least two nested functions.* (Norden-Paul Col 4 Lines 8-32)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6.   **The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:**

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

7.   **Claims 2-4 and 17-20 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Norden-Paul et al. (herein after Norden-Paul) as applied to claim 1 (provided by the applicant), in view of Capson et al. (herein after Capson) U.S. Patent No. 5,701,499 filed 3/25/1992 (provided by the applicant).**

In regard to dependent claim 2, Norden-Paul does not specifically disclose *wherein said electronic spreadsheet is supported by a spreadsheet application that provides formatting and calculation functionalities to said electronic spreadsheet.* However, Capson mentions calculations that are used (Capson Col 6 Lines 59-62). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply Capson to Norden-Paul, providing Norden-Paul the benefit of performing calculations so different data entered into the spreadsheet can be correctly calculated.

In regard to dependent claim 3, Norden-Paul discloses *wherein said spreadsheet application operatively resides on a computer system selected from the group consisting of a stand-alone client and a networked client.* (Norden-Paul Col 3 Lines 50-52)

In regard to dependent claim 4, Norden-Paul discloses *wherein said spreadsheet application is a collaborative spreadsheet application that operates across a plurality of networked computers.* (Norden-Paul Col 3 Lines 50-52)

In regard to dependent claim 17, Norden-Paul does not specifically disclose *wherein said programmatic instructions provide formatting and calculation functionalities to said electronic spreadsheet.* However, Capson mentions calculations that are used (Capson Col 6 Lines 59-62). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply Capson to Norden-Paul, providing Norden-Paul the benefit of performing calculations so different data entered into the spreadsheet can be correctly calculated.

In regard to dependent claim 18, Norden-Paul discloses *wherein said client communicates with a server across a network, and wherein said data storage is associated with said server.* (Norden-Paul Col 3 Lines 50-52 and Col 4 Lines 15-20)

In regard to dependent claim 19, Norden-Paul discloses *wherein said spreadsheet application is a collaborative spreadsheet application that operates across a plurality of networked computers.* (Norden-Paul Col 3 Lines 50-52)

In regard to dependent claim 20, Norden-Paul discloses *wherein said data includes at least one dimension member, and wherein said at least one dimension member is identified by at least one parameter set forth in said expansion formula.* (Norden-Paul Col 8 Lines 1-5)

8.   Claim 10 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Norden-Paul et al. (herein after Norden-Paul) as applied to claim 1 (provided by the applicant), in view of Ammirato et al. (herein after Ammirato) U.S. Patent No. 5,303,146 filed 3/11/1993.

In regard to dependent claim 10, Norden-Paul does not specifically disclose *further comprising defining a member list in said database, said member list including hierarchical list of members within a given category of said data.* However, Ammirato mentions lists in a tree format such as a hierarchy (Ammirato Col 13 Lines 53-56). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply Ammirato to Norden-Paul, providing Norden-Paul the benefit of listing information in a hierarchical format so the user can view the information easily.

9.   **Claim 13-15 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Norden-Paul et al. (herein after Norden-Paul) as applied to claim 1 (provided by the applicant), in view of Ammirato et al. (herein after Ammirato) and in further view if Smokoff et al. (herein after Smokoff).**

In regard to dependent claim 13, Norden-Paul does not specifically disclose *d) recalculating said electronic spreadsheet based on data retrieval from said database controlled by said expansion formula, and e) building a cache in a memory for said expansion formula.* However, Ammirato mentions that spreadsheets can recalculate (Ammirato Col 2 Lines 15-25). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply Ammirato to Norden-Paul, providing Norden-Paul the benefit of recalculating data in a spreadsheet to ensure data in the spreadsheet was updated.

Smokoff mentions cache in a memory (Smokoff Col 8 Lines 4-10). It would have been been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply Smokoff to Norden-Paul, providing Norden-Paul the benefit of caching data, which can be used for future use.

In regard to dependent claim 14, Norden-Paul discloses *f) expanding said electronic spreadsheet by querying said database for a list of members as defined in expansion parameters included in said expansion formula, g) adjusting the number of cells in a key range and a data range associated with said expansion formula as necessary to accommodate said list of members, h) populating said key range with members from said list of members, and i) copying formulas from at least one of said plurality of cells to an appropriate newly inserted cell to fill an entire data range.* (Norden-Paul Col 6 Lines 65-68 and Col 7 Lines 1-17)

In regard to dependent claim 15, Norden-Paul does not specifically disclose *k) recalculating said electronic spreadsheet in said expanded electronic spreadsheet.* However, Ammirato mentions that spreadsheets can recalculate (Ammirato Col 2 Lines 15-25). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply Ammirato to Norden-Paul, providing Norden-Paul the benefit of recalculating data in a spreadsheet to ensure data in the spreadsheet was updated.

Smokoff mentions cache, which can be deleted in said memory; (Smokoff Col 8 Lines 4-10). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply Smokoff to Norden-Paul, providing Norden-Paul the benefit of caching data, which can be used for future use.

Response to Arguments

10.   **Applicant's arguments filed 4/18/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.**

The applicant argues that the prior art does not suggest expanding the cells of the spreadsheet a to accommodate information (Page 10 Para 1-3). However Norden Col 8 Lines 1-5 mentions a cell whose physical dimensions may be adjusted to meet the requirement of the fields to be displayed

Conclusion

11.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).
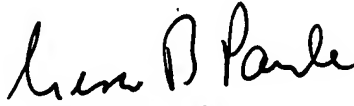
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing

date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Londra C. Burge whose telephone number is (571) 272-4122.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LCB 7/6/2005

CESAR PAULA
PRIMARY EXAMINER